

TENNESSEE GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
FISCAL REVIEW COMMITTEE



**FISCAL NOTE**

**SB 2255 - HB 2488**

February 19, 2022

**SUMMARY OF BILL:** Directs the Montgomery County Election Commission (Commission), with assistance from the Coordinator of Elections, to research methods, systems, and technologies that would allow members and employees of the United States Armed Forces and their dependents who are registered to vote in the county, but are stationed outside the territorial limits of the United States to vote by means other than, or in addition to, mail.

Authorizes the Commission, beginning March 1, 2024 and concluding on or before December 31, 2026, to conduct a test of a method of voting that is secure against hacking, manipulation, or other interference, if such method is found. Requires the Commission to provide a report to the Speaker of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives detailing the results of the test.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

**Increase Local Expenditures - \$770/FY23-24/Permissive**  
**\$22,720/FY24-25/Permissive**  
**\$22,720/FY26-27/Permissive**

Assumptions:

- The Commission and the Coordinator of Elections can research methods and systems of voting utilizing existing personnel and resources.
- Currently, the state of West Virginia contracts with the vendor Democracy Live to utilize an application which allows members of the armed forces to vote overseas.
- Democracy Live charges \$205,000 for 1,200,000 voters in the primary and general election, at approximately \$0.17083 per voter for two elections.
- Montgomery County has approximately 133,000 voters.
- The estimated cost for Montgomery County to utilize Democracy Live is \$11,360  $[(\$133,000 \times \$0.17083) / 2]$  per election.
- The testing system is estimated to be active for four elections before the provisions are repealed on December 31, 2026.
- There will be an increase in local expenditures in each FY24-25 and FY26-27 of \$22,760  $(\$11,360 \times 2 \text{ elections})$ .
- The Commission would require one additional computer to process the ballots in the test system, resulting in an increase in local expenditures in FY23-24 of \$770 for one computer.
- Any cost to submit a report to the General Assembly is estimated to be not significant.

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**CERTIFICATION:**

The information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Krista Lee Carsner". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Krista Lee Carsner, Executive Director

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